

Message Text

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70

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01 OMB-01 /160 W

----- 121524

R 160920Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2747

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3499

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MARR, VS

SUBJECT: PRG REQUEST FOR ICCS INVESTIGATION AT CAI LAY

REF: SAIGON 3470

1. BOTH GVN AND ICCS SOURCES HAVE STATED THAT NO IMMEDIATE ACTION WILL BE TAKEN WITH RESPECT TO THE PRG PROTEST AND REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION (REFTEL) OF THE CAI LAY SCHOOL ATROCITY. ACCORDING TO INDODEL SOURCE, THERE WILL HAVE TO BE AN ICCS PLENARY SESSION BEFORE THE FULL ICCS CAN ACT OFFICIALLY. COLONEL NGHIA OF THE GVN TPJMC DELEGATION STATES THAT THE GVN WILL PROBABLY PASS WORD INFORMALLY TO THE INDONESIANS AND IRANIANS THAT IT WILL GO ALONG WITH A FORMAL ICCS INVESTIGATION, BUT THAT IT WILL BE MONDAY OR TUESDAY BEFORE THE OFFICIAL GVN POSITION IS COORDINATED. IN THE MEANTIME, THE IRANIANS AND INDONESIANS HAVE EXTENSIVELY INTERVIEWED VICTIAMS AND WITNESSES AND FINISHED WRITING THEIR "OBSERVATION REPORTS."

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2. COLONEL NGHIA WAS GENUINELY WORRIED BY THE PROBLEMS FOR

THE GVN IN ENSURING ABSOLUTELY THE PHYSICAL SAFETY OF THE COMMUNIST ICCS REPRESENTATIVES AND THE PRG LIAISON PERSONNEL WHO WOULD PRESEAMABLY ACCOMPANY THEM. ON MARCH 10, WHEN THE IRANIANS AND INDONESIANS FIRST WENT TO CAI LAY, AN ANGRY CROWD HAD ASSEMBLED TO MOLEST THE COMMUNIST REPRESENTATIVES AND THE GVN TPJMC REGION VI CHIEF HAD HAD TO INTERVENE AND ASSURE THE CROWD THAT NO POLISH OR HUNGARIANS WERE PRESENT. NGHIA STATED EMPHATICALLY THAT THE GVN WOULD HAVE TO PROVIDE COMPLETE SECURITY, BUT WONDERED IF EVEN A COMPANY OF TROOPS COULD DO THIS EFFECTIVELY. MANY OF THE FAMILIES DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE ATROCITY WERE LOCAL MILITARY. NGHIA SUGGESTED THAT THE WEEKEND COULD BE USEFUL TO INFORM THE PUBLIC OF THE CHANGE IN THE COMMUNIST APPROACH.

3. THE PRG NOTE SEEMS TO BE THE INITIAL STEP IN A BELATED COMMUNIST EFFORT TO LIMIT THE DAMAGE ACCRUING TO THEM FROM THE CAI LAY ATROCITY, PROBABLY COORDINATED WITH HUNGARIANS AND POLES. A FORMAL ICCS INVESTIGATION FROM WHICH WOULD EMERGE AN INCONCLUSIVE SPLIT REPORT WOULD SERVE BOTH TO GET THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS OUT OF A PARTICULARLY AWKARD SITUATION THAT IS HIGH-LIGHTING THEIR NON-PERFORMANCE ON THE ICCS AND, IN SOME QUARTERS, TO COUNTERACT OR LESSEN THE IMPACT OF ADVERSE PUBLICITY FOR THE PRG.

MARTIN

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